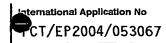
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 D06F37/26 F16F F16F15/28 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 D06F F16F BO4B B60B A47L Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included. In the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category 9 GB 2 044 298 A (ZANUSSI A SPA INDUSTRIE) 1 Α 15 October 1980 (1980-10-15) cited in the application page 1, lines 65-81; figures Α GB 2 241 251 A (ZANUSSI A SPA INDUSTRIE) 1 28 August 1991 (1991-08-28) page 1, line 1 - page 2, line 12 page 3, line 19 - page 4, line 3 page 4, line 17 - page 5, line 9; figures Α EP 0 623 436 A (PESCATORI STEFANO) 1 9 November 1994 (1994-11-09) the whole document -/--Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is clied to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu- O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled other means document published prior to the international filing date but "&" document member of the same patent family later than the priority date claimed Date of malling of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 07/02/2005 28 January 2005 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Falkentoft, C Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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